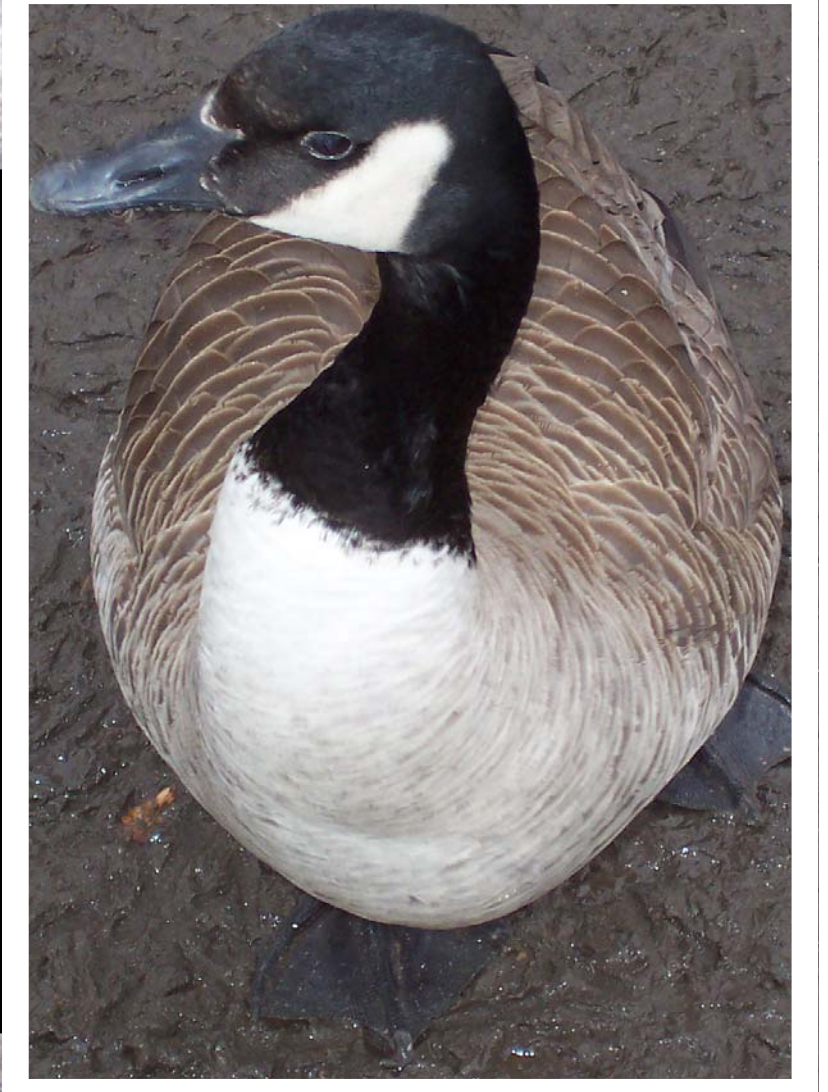


IF YOU LOVE US, DON'T FEED US



Olmsted County is home to three different populations of geese:

1. 1,000 to 2,000 resident geese that live in Rochester all year long
2. 2,000 to 3,000 molt-migrant geese that are here from June to August
3. 10,000 to 35,000 migratory geese that visit from September through February

Resident goose populations have been growing in Rochester for many reasons:

- ◆ Natural predators are absent
- ◆ More food resources are available (geese like to eat short turf grasses found in parks, recreational fields, and lawns, as well as corn and other food offered by people)

Although you may love the unique experience of feeding geese at Silver Lake Park, these wild animals should only be observed and **NOT** fed. Feeding them:



Feeding geese is not healthy for them or the environment.

- ◆ Discourages dispersion and migration.
- ◆ Causes overcrowding, concentrating the input of goose poop into Silver Lake. Too much *fecal coliform* bacteria from goose poop is one reason for poor water quality in Silver Lake and the Zumbro River.
- ◆ Increases the chances that diseases like avian botulism, avian flu, duck plague, and avian cholera will spread quickly once a flock is infected.
- ◆ Makes geese more dependent on humans, decreasing their natural behaviors and increasing human conflict from their nuisance and aggressive behaviors.
- ◆ Ruins their diet! Popcorn, bread, shelled corn, and other unnatural foods do not provide a balanced diet and may cause wing deformities and other health issues.
- ◆ Destroys park property and impacts recreational uses and park enjoyment.

The City of Rochester is taking steps to help improve water quality by discouraging the feeding of geese and establishing a more natural shoreline. This will benefit all aquatic life in Silver Lake and downstream in the Zumbro River. Improving the overall health of the goose flock may also result.

You can help too.

Resist the urge to feed the geese!

It's better for them and it's better for the environment.



Enjoy us from a distance!

